

Bagdad Architectural Advisory Committee
Minutes of the October 21, 2004 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. with the following members and staff present: Mrs. Jan Davis, Committee Member; Dr. Richard Lewis, Committee Member; Dr. Charles D'Asaro, Alternate Committee Member; Ms. Beckie Faulkenberry, Planning Director and Kacey Wagg, Transportation Planner and staff to the Committee. Mr. Jimmy Ray and Mr. John Twitchell, both representatives of the applicant were also in attendance. Mrs. Pat D'Asaro also attended as an observer. Mr. Charles Cook, committee chairman, arrived at approximately 2:20 p.m.

The first and only item on the agenda was consideration of a request to replace a mobile home at 6875 Pooley Street. The existing mobile home had been in serious disrepair and was destroyed in Hurricane Ivan. Mr. Ray explained that the Woodbine United Methodist Church had been working with the family, the Bakers, for some time and even before the storm had acquired a newer mobile home for the family of five to live in on the Pooley Street property. The Church is assisting the family not only with housing, but also with financial management, family counseling and numerous other issues.

Dr. D'Asaro expressed the desire of all present to see the family in better housing, but also expressed concern about proliferating trailer homes in the Historic District. He indicated that the old trailer had been moved onto the site after the adoption of the codes governing the Historic District and was, thus, in violation. He asked if the family could live in the trailer temporarily while a new, permanent, home was being constructed. Dr. Lewis and the other Board members raised similar concerns and also expressed a strong desire to do what was right for the family. A great deal of discussion ensued regarding the housing assistance programs and the length of lists for help. FEMA temporary housing was offered as an alternative.

The Board finally negotiated with the applicant's representatives a compromise that a "drop-dead" date for removal of the mobile home would not be required, but that the approval of the replacement would be considered temporary. The applicant will provide periodic updates to Planning & Zoning staff on the progress of attaining housing assistance to erect a permanent structure that meets all codes governing architecture for the Bagdad Historic Village. Dr. Lewis made this motion, Mrs. Davis seconded it and it was approved unanimously.

The Board encouraged the Church to work with the community to help this family and other families in similar situation. Ms. Wagg encouraged both the Church and the Board members to see the situation as an opportunity to solve the dilemma of providing affordable housing while still maintaining the character of the Historic District.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.